

## Assembly Bill No. 1489

### CHAPTER 181

An act to amend Section 35402 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

[Approved by Governor July 26, 1999. Filed with  
Secretary of State July 26, 1999.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1489, Maldonado. Length of vehicles: extensions.

Existing law limits the length of vehicles and combinations of vehicles coupled together. Under existing law, any extension or device used to increase the carrying capacity of a vehicle is generally included in measuring the length of a vehicle. However, extensions of not more than 18 inches in length on the last vehicle in a combination of vehicles transporting loads are not included in measuring the length when the vehicles are loaded.

This bill would not include, in measuring the length, an 18-inch extension on the front of the first trailer and the rear of the last vehicle when the vehicles are loaded and are on highways, other than those highways designated by the United States Department of Transportation as national network routes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 35402 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

35402. (a) Any extension or device, including any adjustable axle added to the front or rear of a vehicle, used to increase the carrying capacity of a vehicle shall be included in measuring the length of a vehicle, except that a drawbar shall not be included in measuring the length of a vehicle but shall be included in measuring the overall length of a combination of vehicles.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), extensions of not more than 18 inches in length on each end of a vehicle or combination of vehicles used exclusively to transport vehicles shall not be included in measuring the length of a vehicle or combination of vehicles when the vehicles are loaded.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), extensions of not more than 18 inches in length on the front of the first trailer and the rear of the last vehicle in a combination of vehicles transporting loads shall not be included in measuring the length of a vehicle or combination of vehicles when the vehicles are loaded and are on highways, other

than those highways designated by the United States Department of Transportation as national network routes.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), any extension or device which is not used to carry any load and which does not exceed three feet in length, added to the rear of a vehicle, and is used exclusively for pushing the vehicle or a combination of vehicles, which vehicle or combination of vehicles is designed and used exclusively to transport earth, sand, gravel, and similar materials, shall be included in measuring the length of the vehicle but shall not be included in measuring the overall length of the combination of vehicles.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a truck semitrailer combination, but not a truck tractor and semitrailer combination, may use a sliding fifth wheel, or a truck tractor, semitrailer, trailer, and a truck-trailer combination may use a sliding drawbar, to extend the length of the combination by not more than 2 feet 6 inches while traveling 35 miles per hour or less on any highway, except a freeway. These provisions shall apply, however, to freeway onramps and offramps and freeway connectors. The sliding fifth wheel or drawbar when extended shall not be included in measuring the overall length of the combination of vehicles if the pivot point of the semitrailer connection is more than two feet to the rear of the center of the rearmost axle of the motortruck or if the distance from the pivot point to the center of the rearmost axle of the semitrailer does not exceed 34 feet.

Combinations of vehicles permitted by this subdivision shall be in compliance with the weight limits provided in Article 1 (commencing with Section 35550) of Chapter 5 whenever any drawbar or sliding fifth wheel is extended, contracted, or in any intermediate position as provided for by this subdivision.

